

**Study of the interplay between nationally-produced and imported seafood products in the markets of EU Mediterranean Member States (WWF – EU Project “Fish Forward”)**

<p><i>Year :</i></p> <p><i>Location :</i></p> <p><i>Client :</i></p> <p><i>Description :</i></p>	<p>2015</p> <p>Croatia, France, Spain, Greece, Slovenia, Italy and Portugal</p> <p>WWF European Policy Programme</p> <p>The impact of imports on EU Mediterranean fishers is increasingly becoming more important, not only because of the competition on markets but also as a result of the fluctuations in catches, often linked to the overexploitation, and the fragility of local communities, heavily hit by the economic crisis.</p> <p>Besides the European fishers, local communities in many developing coastal countries are also very vulnerable to changes in the conditions of access to EU markets, especially for the most valuable species and those others that do not have a significant market in the same geographical region (octopus or some shellfish species in Africa, for example).</p> <p>WWF's EU co-funded Fish Forward project (DCI-NSAED/2014/338-136) aims at raising awareness of the global impacts and interdependencies of fish consumption, as the majority of consumers are not yet aware of their role in supporting environmentally, economically and socially responsible seafood. The specific objective of this action is: “By 2017 consumers, corporate sector and relevant authorities have a better understanding of sustainable seafood and its impact on poverty reduction in developing countries and thereby taking responsibility as active contributors to sustainable development”.</p> <p>In particular, the activity 1.8 (“Development of target specific guidelines: Study on the interplay between nationally-produced and imported seafood products”) is focused on the markets of EU Mediterranean Member States (Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Spain) and Portugal.</p> <p>The general objective of the study is to reconcile the interests of stakeholders involved in the production, distribution and consumption of seafood obtained by the EU Mediterranean member states and that other imported from developing countries, while at the same time promoting the environmental sustainability and the socio-economic development of local communities.</p> <p>The specific objective is to provide background information and guidelines to facilitate a better understanding of the interplay between local and imported fish and fish products in the selected countries.</p>
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